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PUBLIC HEALTH REPORTS

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TIME TO BEGIN ANTIMOSQUITO WORK.

Experience has shown that antimosquito measures should begin as early in the spring as possible. It does not take long for the little pest to recognize the passing of winter and the coming of a new breeding season. This season opens about March or the beginning of April in the southern district (Montgomery, Ala.) and about a week later for districts as far north as Newport News, Va. The greatest result from antimosquito measures with the least effort is obtained when these measures are taken in time to prevent the breeding of the early spring generations. We publish in this issue an instructive paper describing the effective antimosquito campaign carried on by the Public Health Service in the extra-cantonment areas last year. A list of other recent publications issued by the service is given on page 553.

The United States Public Health Service will be glad to assist local communities desiring to engage in antimosquito activities. If desired, an experienced sanitary engineer officer will be detailed to advise such communities as to the most practicable measures to be undertaken, and to cooperate in supervising the activities carried on. Requests for such assistance should be made through the State health officer.

MALARIA.

A SERIOUS HEALTH PROBLEM OF NATION-WIDE CONCERN.

The public generally has no conception of the seriousness of malaria as a health problem in the United States. Yet it is well established that wherever malaria prevails, and almost in direct proportion to its prevalence, the population is generally subnormal physically, mentally, and economically. Since competent authorities estimate the number of cases of malaria occurring annually in the United States at the present time at about six or seven million, the influence of this disease on the health and welfare of the Nation demands wider recognition. It is especially important to overcome the apathy with which malaria is still so frequently regarded, mainly